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NASA review completed.

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16 FEB 1965

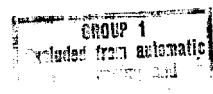
Dr. George E. Mueller  
Associate Administrator for Manned Space Flight  
NASA  
600 Independence Avenue, S. W.  
Washington, D. C.

Dear George:

Following my recent visit to Cape Kennedy, we discussed the possibility of holding a joint NASA/CIA seminar this coming summer on the Soviet Manned Space Program. I asked OSI to examine the basic proposition and suggest a time, place, agenda and attendance. It looks to them as though three days would be the minimum for thoughtful examination of the subject. Any congenial place would be acceptable to CIA, since we could make special temporary arrangements for storage of classified material. Incidentally, I feel that Washington is probably the least desirable because of one's accessibility for ad hoc diversion.

An agenda is easy to construct; the problem is to restrict it. Separate sessions focused on launch vehicles, current spacecraft, life support systems per se, launch and test facilities, the apparent Soviet program, etc., could each occupy a morning or afternoon. I am sure that CIA would be willing to start each session with a crisp review of what we now know of the Soviet program. I would hope that most of the session would be devoted to thoughtful discussion, springing from the experience of the CIA and NASA people.

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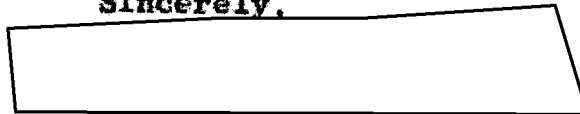
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This spells a small, senior group in my view. While we could easily find sixty people interested in attending such a seminar, I feel that we should consider no more than thirty total, probably divided evenly between NASA and CIA.

All of this has been somewhat overtaken by a broader approach to the space-intelligence problem, suggested by General McKee. However, his proposal has as one of its logical parts a CIA/NASA group focused on the Soviet Manned Space Program. Assuming that the two are congruent, it seemed important to keep our previous ball in play. If we wish to do something this summer, it is not too early to begin identifying people so that appropriate clearances can be arranged. Let me know your reaction when you have examined the concept further.

STATINTL

Sincerely,



Albert D. Wheelon  
Deputy Director

cc: Dr. Robert Seamans  
Gen. William F. McKee

Distribution:

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